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San Manuel Supports National Conference to Address Problem Gambling
The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians Sponsors 22nd Annual National Conference on Problem Gambling held in Long Beach, Calif.

San Bernardino, Calif. – June 23, 2008 - The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is pleased to announce its sponsorship for the 22nd Annual National Conference on Problem Gambling: Focus on Family and Community Issues. Hosted by the California Council on Problem Gambling (CCPG), this event will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Long Beach, California on June 26-28.

In 2007, San Manuel Indian Bingo & Casino located just outside the cities of Highland and San Bernardino became only the second tribal gaming enterprise in California to become certified by CCPG as a Responsible Gaming Establishment. The certification was awarded after the San Manuel casino met a list of requirements, including training for all of the casino personnel on how to identify patrons who may be having issues with problem gambling.

The process of earning certification was lengthy and involved all casino management and staff. This process has impressed upon San Manuel the important role that the CCPG and its sister organizations around the country can play in gaming operations. The casino recently entered into another year-long agreement with the CCPG to provide ongoing training and support.

“It is important to understand the issues associated with problem gambling,” said James Ramos, Chairman of the San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians. “If we can help to address the issues before they become problems - that is an appropriate role for us.”

Ramos is slated to speak before conference attendees to discuss San Manuel's commitment to the efforts and partnerships for addressing the issue of problem gaming.

"The generosity of the San Manuel tribal government will allow us to introduce community day on Saturday, June 28, 2008," according to Bruce Roberts, Executive Director of CCPG. "For the first time, the conference will be open to the general public, especially those whose lives have been negatively affected by gambling, to learn about resources available to help them and their families."

"When I approached San Manuel with the idea for community day," Roberts continues, "They did not hesitate, once again showing their willingness to help those who cannot gamble normally." A limited amount of free tickets are still available but must be ordered in advance. For more information, please call 888-250-2282. Tickets will not be available at the door.

About the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is a federally recognized American Indian tribe located near the city of Highland, Calif. The Serrano Indians are the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys and mountains who share a common language and culture. The San Manuel reservation was established in 1891 and recognized as a sovereign nation with the right of self-government. Since time immemorial, the San Manuel tribal community has endured change and hardship. Amidst these challenges the tribe continued to maintain its unique form of governance. Like other governments it seeks to provide a better quality of life for its citizens by building infrastructure, maintaining civil services and promoting social, economic and cultural development. Today San Manuel tribal government oversees many governmental units including the departments of fire, public safety, education and environment.

About the California Council on Problem Gambling

The California Council on Problem Gambling is a nonprofit organization, established in 1986, dedicated to assisting problem gamblers and their families.

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